

the Overtimes

News for the People in Montgomery County Government

September/October 2003



Myriam Torrico, manager of the Hispanic/Latino Initiative in the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, displays a few of her many awards that she has received for her work helping to improve the lives of Latino residents in Montgomery County.

DHCA Hispanic Liaison Makes a Difference

Myriam Torrico, who works in the Department of Housing and Community Affairs as manager of the department's Hispanic/Latino Initiative, takes her job very seriously, but also finds much personal satisfaction in her work. Everyday Myriam works with members of the Latino community providing information on services that are available to them in the County. Whether it's a one-on-one counseling session or a workshop offered with not-for-profit organizations, she is able to help many of the County's Latin American residents improve their daily lives.

The Embassy of Bolivia recently presented Myriam with a Certificate of Merit for her work promoting the rights of immi-

grants. She was honored specifically for her work on the Matricula Consular ID cards. These cards are used as official identification for immigrants living in this country. The County Council recently passed legislation which directs all County departments and offices to accept these cards as identification for programs and services.

Myriam also received two Montgomery's Best awards this year. One was the County Diversity Award for her commitment to improving the lives of Hispanic/Latino residents in Montgomery County. She also received a County Partnership Award as a member of the Housing Fair Planning

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Montgomery County Celebrates Diversity

Mark your calendar for the ninth annual Montgomery County Diversity Celebration on Thursday, October 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Executive Office Building auditorium. This year's theme is "Enhancing Cultural Awareness: Voices and Visions of Diversity."

The event kicks off with live entertainment, a keynote speaker and presentation of the Departmental Diversity Award. The celebration continues in the afternoon with live musical performances by culturally diverse entertainers and ethnically diverse food selections in the EOB cafeteria.

The Chief Administrative Officer has authorized two hours of administrative leave for employees to attend this event.

For additional information, call 240-777-5110.

Health Yourself News

Health Yourself is offering two self-care resource manuals free to employees. Call the office to request copies of INFORMED, An Introduction to Medical Self-Care and Staying Well Manual and INFORMED ADVANTAGE, a resource guide for healthy aging. Call 240-777-5092 or email the Health Yourself program at Humanres.Wellness@montgomerycountymd.gov.

HOLIDAYS

Veterans' Day
Tuesday, November 11

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 27

Overheard On the Elevator

REBECCA PUGH, Human Resources, recently retired after 23 years with Montgomery County...and after more than 20 years with the County, **RENEE GROVE**, Board of Elections retired...**PAT AFFENS**, Finance, retired after 27 years...**AL DeBLASIO**, Recreation, retired from County service on August 1.

LOIS HACKEY, Office of Human Rights, became a grandmother for the first time on July 20, when her daughter Melissa gave birth to her daughter Taylor. **SHARON HACKEY**, Recreation, is the proud great aunt!

Congratulations to ribbon winners at the 2003 County Fair...**JOANNE POORE**, County Executive's Office, won a first place blue ribbon for her gluten free rum raisin cake; **PAM NEBEL**, DPWT, won a first place ribbon for iced almond cookies and a second place ribbon for un-iced carrot cake; **JOHN FORD**, DPWT, won a third place ribbon for his photograph, "Blue Jay in the Snow"; and **RUTH HALLET**, Libraries, was the Grand Champion winner in the latch hook rug category with her Safari-patterned rug.

Congratulations to **SANDI ATKINSON**, Procurement, whose Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Stellar Zenith, recently earned Highest Scoring Dog in Trial, along with another advanced obedience title. Zenith's 28 titles include the top levels in agility and obedience, beginning tracking, and a breed championship. He is the only Cavalier to hold the UKC obedience champion title. Atkinson is in the process of becoming a judge for AKC agility and UKC obedience trials.

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is published bimonthly by the
Montgomery County Government,
Office of Public Information,
4th Floor, Executive Office Building.

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240/777-6530



Angie Laiosa, Director of Humane Education and Public Relations holds one of the many cats available for adoption through the Animal Shelter.

Humane Society Has The Pet For You

Did you know that 45 percent of the dogs and cats at the Montgomery County Humane Society are purebred? The shelter also offers for adoption rabbits, gerbils, hamsters, mice, iguanas, snakes and fish, not to mention the occasional farm animal. All in all, more than 10,000 animals come through its doors every year.

Maybe you're thinking about adopting a pet, but you're not quite sure of the commitment. If so, consider fostering. When you foster a stray animal from the shelter, you keep that animal only until a permanent home can be found. The Foster Program saved 681 dogs, cats and small animals last year.

For those individuals who are ready for a permanent addition to their family, consider visiting the animal shelter. Located on Rothgeb Drive in Rockville, the shelter is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The process is simple. Visit the shelter and fill out an application. If you don't see what you're looking for, come back another time. If you're

looking for a particular breed, you can put in a request and you will be notified if that breed becomes available.

"Take your time and do your research," said Angie Laiosa, Director of Humane Education and Public Relations. "While everyone falls in love with the adorable kittens and puppies, consider the extra responsibility that goes along with training. The adult cats and dogs are usually already trained and housebroken."

The Shelter currently enjoys a 71 percent adoption rate – up five percent from last year. This high adoption rate is due in large part to coordination with animal rescue groups that deal with particular breeds. The Humane Society also has a close relationship with the Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg.

Numerous volunteer opportunities are available, including dog walking and small animal handling, working at special events and fundraisers, and staffing the front desk. To fill out a volunteer application, go to www.mchumane.org. For more information, call 240-773-5960.

17th Annual Community Service Day

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25 – Montgomery County's 17th annual Community Service Day. This one-day event provides valuable assistance to many Montgomery County nonprofit organizations. It is a great opportunity for individuals, families, schools, neighborhoods, businesses, church and civic groups to work together on projects that benefit the community. Middle and high school students can earn Student Service Learning credit by participating on this special day.

Paint, clean or repair a group home, plant a garden, pack boxes of food or toys for the needy, visit the elderly in a nursing home, help clean up a park or stream. Participate by organizing your own project or by being matched with one of many projects

registered with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Center can help you work out the details.

Jump start Community Service Day with a rally and Civic Action Fair from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Executive Office Building cafeteria. Mingle with your neighbors and co-workers as you enjoy a continental breakfast, speakers and entertainment. There will be information available on the new voting machines, neighborhood and personal safety, recycling and composting, and more. There will also be projects available on Sunday for those unable to participate on Saturday.

To find out more about Community Service Day and how you can participate, call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600.

Human Rights Office Seeking Nominations for Hall of Fame

The Office of Human Rights is accepting nominations, through November 3, for its Hall of Fame. Nominees should be individuals – either living or deceased – who have made contributions to human and civil rights in the County.

Five nominees will be selected for the Hall of Fame by a panel of community judges. The

induction ceremony is planned for Thursday, March 11, 2004 at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown.

Nomination forms are available at County libraries or online by accessing the County website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov. For more information, call the Office of Human Rights at 240-777-8450.



A Community Remembers – Montgomery County marked the second anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks with the official dedication of the "Memorial to the Events of 9/11/01." Part of the memorial to the 11 County residents who lost their lives are benches bearing inscriptions reflecting the character of each person. The memorial is located in Courthouse Square Park in downtown Rockville.

HR Notes

Office of Human Resources

Group Insurance Transfer Season

It's almost that time again! Transfer Season will be held this year from Monday, October 20, through 5pm on Wednesday, November 12, with changes effective January 1, 2004. Look for information to be mailed to your home address in October. Please read the materials carefully and keep them for reference during the coming year.

TRY IT!

You can apply on-line for most announced positions. Just go to the OHR website, click on "careers", select the job you want, and click on "Apply On-Line" to go to the online resume builder. You can apply from home, at one of our many public access sites (Regional Service Centers, Public Libraries, EOB Lobby, select Recreation Centers), or from any computer with access to the Internet.

Sign Up for Benefits Updates

You can subscribe to OHR's e-mail benefits update service through eSubscription, at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov> under Online Services. Direct your benefits questions to the Benefits Team at 240-777-5000.

Don't Forget

Forms that you send to OHR *must be signed*. OHR must return unsigned forms, which could delay your tax changes or receipt of pay or benefits. Also, social security numbers must be included and must be written legibly.

Montgomery's Best 2003 Honor Awards

Employees are invited to submit nominations for the Montgomery's Best Honor Awards. There are individual and team awards. You can nominate County employees, volunteers, County residents, and private organizations for eight different award categories. Submit nominations to your Department Awards Coordinator. Departments must submit nominations to OHR by October 17, 2003. The awards ceremony is in February. For information and nomination forms, call Doug Bliven at 240-777-5074 or go to <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/ohr/ResourceLibrary/RLMain1.cfm?m=1&c=7>.



DPWT crews work to clean up debris in neighborhoods following Tropical Storm Isabel.

Montgomery County Weathers Isabel

The effects of Tropical Storm Isabel in Montgomery County included massive power outages, a significant number of downed wires and trees, and road closures.

County government closed its doors on Friday due to power outages throughout the government complex in Rockville, and essential personnel worked throughout the day to open roads and restore services as quickly as possible.

The County Executive's office fielded many calls from citizens during the storm and its aftermath, but one call in particular stood out and provided some much-needed levity. Debbie Richards, Executive Administrative Aide took a call from a citizen with an unusual offer

It was a tough time for the County
And a rough time for our staff
Handling irate callers
Who were not in the mood to laugh!
Frustration levels mounted
Over the extended loss of power
And each day the callers became
Conspicuously more sour.
But there were occasional bright spots
When citizens didn't complain
But, instead, offered something positive
Even when we got that extra rain.
The best one involved our Debbie
Who took a memorable call
It was an offer to make a donation
That she could barely believe at all.
But the offer indeed was serious
And became her great morale booster
It's something she'll always remember—
This offered donation of a rooster!

of assistance.

Upon relaying the call to her coworkers, Hearing Officer Ron Berger penned the inset poem.

Executive's Ball Set for December 8

The 18th annual Executive's Ball for the Benefit of the Arts and Humanities will be held on Monday, December 8 at Indian Spring Country Club in Silver Spring. This year's theme is "WintryMix," and festivities will get underway at 7:30 p.m., featuring a cocktail buffet and dancing.

Tickets are \$75 in advance. Call 301-215-7227 for tickets or more information.

New Address, Same Location

Effective September 2, the Montgomery County Department of Recreation has a new mailing address – 4010 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902-1099.

"We're still located in the same building," said Recreation Director Greg Baylor. "but we felt that the Randolph Road address was a more accessible, better entrance for our customers and our neighbors."

The phone numbers for several programs have also changed. The new numbers are: Classes, 240-777-6870; Seniors/Therapeutics, 301-468-4540; and Summer Playgrounds, Teen Programs and Youth Sports, 240-777-6961. Numbers for other programs and offices within the department remain the same.

Torrico

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Committee for its work on the County's Annual Housing Fair. The fair has gained in popularity since its inception, helping hundreds of fair goers with housing-related questions and information on home ownership.

Myriam's energy and enthusiasm for her job are matched by her compassion and approachability. She daily helps county residents with problems that emanate from their lack of familiarity with regulations and customs in this country, limited English comprehension, fear of government and vulnerability to scams and predatory practices.

"From the day I arrived in this country almost 30 years ago, I had a desire to help other immigrants with language barriers," said Torrico. "I am very fortunate to have a job that I love and from which I can go home every day feeling like I made a difference in somebody's life."

Wheaton's Fall Music Festival

Downtown Wheaton will host its Fall Music Festival with a special tribute to Chuck Levin on Sunday, October 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will take place on Reddie Drive between Veirs Mill Road and Georgia Avenue.

Public art dedicated to the memory of Chuck Levin will be unveiled at a new retail-office building located on the corner of Veirs Mill Road and Reddie Drive. Following the art dedication, the



Wheaton Fall Music Festival will kick off with the U.S. Navy Band Commodores, followed by O.A.R. (...of a revolution) and a jam session anchored by Jr. Cline and the Recliners and featuring local artists performing as Chuck Levin's Washington Music All Stars.

For more information, call 240-777-8100 or visit the website at www.tributetochuck.com.

LUXURY SKI RESORT—

Massanutten Resort, VA. Deluxe unit, sleeps six, 2-bdr., 2 bath w/ whirlpool, sleep sofa, gas fireplace, W/D, DW and microwave. Cable/HBO and VCR in both bedrooms and living room. Amenities include heated indoor pools, ping pong, racquetball, basketball, video arcade. Available week of 1/3/04. Call Curtis, 301-236-5720, eves.

TIME SHARES FOR SALE—Orange Lake Country Club, Orlando, FL, week 15, 2-bdr., 2 bath, sleeps 8, \$6,500. Also Vistana Spa, Orlando, FL, week 26, 2-bdr., 2 bath, sleeps 8, \$6,500. Both units are located minutes from Disney World and both have great trading power. Call Cathy, 240-777-1184 or 240-683-1335.

CONDO FOR SALE—Germantown. Spacious, 2 level, 2-bdr., 2.5 bath w/fireplace. Asking price, \$166,000. Call June Blair, 301-279-7120.

'98 HARLEY DAVIDSON—Sportster Hugger. Jetted w/high flow K&N racing air filter,

Backpage Bargains

County employees may submit ads, non-commercial only, with name and home and office phone number to Information Office, 4th floor, EOB. **Ads may appear one time only.** Deadline for the next issue is November 14.

screaming eagle slip ons, red w/matching oil tank and air cleaner covers, quick release smoked windshield, rigid mount saddlebags. 4k miles. Kept indoors, perfect condition. \$7,500. Call 240-777-7920 or 301-831-3407.

LAWN MOWER—Honda Harmony 215, 5 hp, gas. Excellent condition. Includes rear bag and mulch feature. \$90. Call Nancy, 240-777-5850.

GAS FIREPLACE—36 DV-XL, never used, still in box. Will sell for \$2,300 (\$500 off cost). See model at Acme Stove Co., Rockville. Call Gwen, 301-926-1454.

FOR SALE—3-piece cherry entertainment center/wall unit, \$750. Two 6 ft. tall bookcases, \$175. Electric lawnmower, \$130. Electric trimmer, \$30. Baby clothes and ac-

cessories (megasaucer, bouncy seat, baby sling, sheets, lamp and more). All items in excellent condition. Call Joyce, 240-777-9701 or 301-916-1697.

FOR SALE—26" girl's bicycle, \$50. Mini-

trampoline, \$20. Standing telephone and book holder, \$15. TV stand w/2 shelves, \$15. 19" TV, \$60. 13" TV w/VCR, \$70. Two 5' standing lamps, \$25 ea. Standing CD holder, holds 100, \$15. Recliner, \$60. Room size refrigerator, \$30. '87 Porsche 924S, \$3,000. Call Charles or Cheryl, 301-279-5579.

FOR SALE—antique Lincoln Drape chair, \$250/best offer. Call Joanne, 240-777-5013.

WATERBED—California King waterbed frame and headboard with mirror. Dark oak stain, comes with bed liner, heater and control. Well maintained and cared for. No reasonable offer refused. Call 301-468-4211.

DINING ROOM FURNITURE—oak table w/6 upholstered chairs, lighted china cabinet, buffet. Excellent condition. \$1,700. Call 301-977-7060.

Handling Suspicious Packages

The likelihood of receiving a bomb in the mail is remote. However, a small number of explosive devices have been mailed over the years, resulting in death, injury and the destruction of property. Following are some tips that may help to prevent a tragedy.

How to Prevent a Mail Bomb Disaster

- Consider whether you or your organization could be a possible target.
- Keep in mind that the outward appearance is limited only by the imagination of the sender.
- Do not hesitate to suspect a piece of mail or a package that is out of the ordinary.

What to Do If You Are Suspicious of a Mailed Package

- Do not open the package.
- Isolate the mailing and evacuate the immediate area.
- If possible, open windows in the immediate area to help vent potential explosive gases.

- Do not hesitate to call 911 if you have any reason to believe the letter or parcel is suspicious.

How to Spot a Potential Letter Bomb

- Look for restricted endorsements such as "personal" or "private."
- Addressee's name or title may be inaccurate.
- Return address may be fictitious.
- Look for distorted handwriting or a homemade address label.
- Postmark may show a different location than the return address.
- Pressure or resistance may be noted when removing contents from an envelope or parcel. If this occurs, stop and immediately call 911.

These are just a few tips to avoid being the victim of a letter bomb. For more information contact Montgomery County Fire and Explosive Investigations at 240-777-2255.

Dances With Dogs

The Montgomery County Humane Society is holding its annual "Dances with Dogs" event on Saturday, October 18, from 7 to 11 p.m., at the Gaithersburg Washingtonian Marriott. Plan on bringing your four-legged friend and enjoy an evening of dinner, music and dancing.

The evening will feature pet photographs, an animal communicator, caricaturists, contests, a Shelter Alumni Parade and a treasure-filled silent auction.

Tickets, which cost \$100 a person, can be purchased by calling 301-279-9677 or online at www.DancesWithDogs.net. Proceeds will benefit the homeless animals of Montgomery County.

FALL BACK

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on October 26. It's also a good time to check and replace your smoke alarm batteries!